

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 02472 231428Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 SSM-03 TRSE-00 /051 W
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R 231328Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1430
INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2472

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IS
SUBJECT: MAYOR KOLLEK'S FUTURE

REF: (A) STATE 40172; (B) JERUSALEM 463

1. OUR SOUNDINGS OF LABOR PARTY LEADERS TEND TO CONFIRM CONGEN JERUSALEM'S REPORT (REF B) THAT KOLLEK IS EXPECTED TO RUN FOR REELECTION. ALIGNMENT MK UZI BAR AM, WHO TOLD US HE WILL HEAD HIS PARTY'S LOCAL ELECTIONS CAMPAIGN, SAID HE IS "ALMOST CERTAIN" KOLLEK WILL RUN AGAIN AND ANTICIPATES KOLLEK'S ANNOUNCEMENT IN ABOUT A MONTH. BAR AM'S ONLY QUALIFICTION TO HIS CERTAINTY WAS HIS OBSERVATION THAT KOLLEK IS SOMEWHAT UNPREDICTABLE. IN ANY EVENT, BECAUSE OF KOLLEK'S GENERAL POPULARITY AND SUPPORT AMONG JERUSALEM'S ARABS, THE LABOR PARTY IS COUNTING HEAVILY ON KOLLEK HEADING LABOR'S JERUSALEM TICKET IN THE NOVEMBER ELECTION. BAR AM, WHO IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE LABOR PARTY'S JERUSALEM BRANCH, SAID 20,000 JERUSALEM ARABS ARE EXPECTED TO VOTE IN JERUSALEM'S MUNICIPAL ELECTION.

2. KOLLEK HAS A REPUTATION FOR REPEATEDLY TELLING HIS INTIMATES BETWEEN ELECTIONS (HE WAS FIRST ELECTED MAYOR IN 1965) THAT HE WILL NOT RUN AGAIN. BAR AM DISMISSED
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SPECULATION THAT KOLLEK HAS NATIONAL AMBITIONS, A VIEW ECHOED BY OTHER LABOR PARTY CONTACTS. BAR AM THOUGHT THAT IF KOLLEK IN FACT DOES NOT RUN FOR MAYOR AGAIN, IT WILL SIGNAL HIS RETIREMENT FROM POLITICS.

3. SINCE KOLLEK IS PRONE TO CHANGE HIS MIND, WE MIGHT ADD THAT HIS IS A HARD CAMPAIGNER AND COULD BE AN ASSET

TO THE ALIGNMENT ON A NATIONAL TICKET. HOWEVER, WE
WOULD NOT EXPECT HIM TO BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE ANYTHING LIKE
LEADERSHIP OF HIS PARTY IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, WHAT-
EVER HIS AMBITIONS MIGHT BE.
LEWIS

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Message Attributes

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